SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, the prisoners of war are languishing in Pakistan jails. When they are celebrating this victory day - when Parliament is commemorating this occasion - I would like to bring to your notice that more than 40 prisoners of war have been captured by the Pakistani Army. What is happening now? Even today...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the plight of sugarcane growers in UP is miserable. The Mills are going to be closed and the farmers are going on strike. The Matter should be considered urgently.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think that is enough for today.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am fed up giving notice again and again...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have promised you that I will look into your notice.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Capacity of Dams and Reservoirs

*341. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the capacity of dams and reservoirs constructed in the country from the year 1991 till October 1996 alongwith the irrigation capacity generated as a result thereof, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the position regarding the clearance of the proposal for construction of the Narmada Sagar Dam on Narmada river as National project and financial and other assistance sought therefore and the reasons for delay in the clearance of the project; and

(c) the schedule fixed for its completion and the steps being taken to complete it expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) As per information available, the details of the capacity of the dams and reservoirs constructed in the country through major and medium projects from the year 1991-92 onwards alongwith the irrigation potential created as a result thereof, State-wise and Year-wise, are given in Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

(b) and (c). The Narmada Sagar Project was accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission on 6.9.1989 for Rs. 1993.67 crores. There is no proposal to construct Narmada Sagar Project as National Project. However, with a view to expedite the completion of the project, Central assistance of Rs.50.00 crores has been earmarked for the project under the "Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme" during the year 1996-97 and the first instalment of Rs.25.00 crores has already been released. The project is expected to be completed by 2010 A.D.

ANNEXURE-I

Details of Capacity of Dams and Reservoirs created through Major and Medium Projects

S.No.	State/UTs	Live Storage capacity created (in million cubit metres) during				
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Gujarat	239	221	185	237	-
2.	Karnataka	1062	494	1546	960	-
3.	Madhya Pradesh	983	1086	691	323	-
4.	Maharashtra	1057	505	-	506	-
5.	Orissa	352	-	363	97	-
6.	Rajasthan	-	113	398	139	-
7.	Tripura	-	312	-	-	-

ANNEXURE-II

Irrigation Potential Created through Major & Medium Irrigation Project

S.No.	State/UTs	Potential created (in thousands hectares) during				
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (anticapted)	1995-96 (anticapted)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.00	6.35	9.49	98.04	120.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	30.00	5.55	9.55	10.50	9.00
4.	Bihar	-	4.00	23.00	33.00	50.00
5.	Goa	-	-	-	0.53	0.96
6.	Gujarat	22.00	29.18	19.57	28.34	33.00
7.	Haryana	8.00	12.00	18.00	8.00	10.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	0.21	0.24	0.25	0.26
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	14.10	0.30	0.50	0.40
10.	Karnataka	42.00	44.04	69.99	83.17	99.85
11.	Kerala	-	12.89	13.30	61.32	63.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	72.00	70.00	60.00	72.00	74.40
13.	Maharashtra	8.00	46.39	60.00	60.00	50.00
14.	Manipur	-	2.80	3.00	5.70	10.00
15.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	41.00	17.56	12.79	18.56	44.14
19.	Punjab	9.00	14.70	21.20	27.52	37.30
20.	Rajasthan	33.00	44.36	58.87	67.37	66.67
21.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	1.62	0.58	2.18
23.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	55.00	54.00	62.00	54.00	53.36
25.	West Bengal	94.00	9.08	29.00	41.38	47.43
	Total (States)	374.00	387.21	471.92	670.76	772.75
	Union Territories	7.00	0.13	1.16	1.00	1.00
	Grand Total	381.00	387.34	473.08	671.76	773.75

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Hon, Speaker, Sir, we are all worried about irrigation schemes and use of water resources. But the things is that the Planning Commission has sanctioned a sum of Rs.1993.67 crores on 6 September, 1989 for Narmada Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh. A Sum of Rs.50 crore was sanctioned from the Central Government under "Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme" during the year 1996-97. But only a sum of Rs.25 crore have been made available to it. Financial help of Rs.25 crore is nothing keeping in view this huge schemes. It is a matter of concern. Since hydro-power is a cheap resources for irrigation and to meet the acute shortage of electricity, I, therefore, would like to know through you, Sir, that an assistance of Rs.25 crore for irrigation is very meagre for such an important scheme which we call as Accelerated Scheme. I, therefore, request that that more funds be provided to complete this project by treating it as a National Project.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : The Central Government has not plans to declare any irrigation project as National Project. It is a State matter. Secondly, out of this sum of Rs.50 crore sanctioned under "Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme", half of its amount of Rs.25 crore have been released for Madhya

Pradesh. A sum equal to the sum given to the State Government by the Central Government has to be invested by the State Government. So like this, the sum of Rs.50 crore become Rs.100 crore. So presently if they start working with Rs.25 crore it will become Rs.50 crore and the second instalment would be released after spending the earlier amount.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, this has been told as to how this sum of Rs.50 crore is to be adjusted. But it is a fact that no funds are available to create irrigation facilities in Madhya Pradesh and if these funds are made available by the Government it would certainly lead to more generation of electricity. As per the Narmada Water Distribution accord 182.5 acre feet water has been allotted for the benefit of Madhya Pradesh. But if the water is not used it would be treated as a national loss. So, my point is that other schemes are also dependent on this - Narmada - Shipra link Yojana is dependent on this, Narmada Choti Kali Sindh Link Yojana is dependent on this, Narmada Bari Kali Sindh Link Yojana is dependent on this. So, this is a basic scheme and with a view to complete this scheme and with a view to benefit irrigation, it is bound to be a matter of major concern. Hence, I wish to ask the hon. Minister through you whether they are going to frame any policy at the national level with regard to water resources and if so, what are its main features, this is my question.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the ensuing 9th Five Year Plan also funds would be provided to the State Government on the same line and for them the schemes involving expenditure of more than Rs. 1000 crore the amount has been provided keeping in view the request made by the State Government and matching the amount to be spent by the State themselves. But if still shortage is there and the State Government writes that they have to spend more than it can be considered.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know form the Minister, through you, that Chandigarh has no river its own and no river passes through Chandigarh and the Central Government has been approached by the Chandigarh Administration a number of times in writing that a Dam should be constructed over river Ghagar which passes near Chandigarh to meet the requirement of drinking water and irrigation in Chandigarh so that both these problems of drinking and irrigation of this region can be solved. I would like to know from consideration and if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : It does not come under my purview so separate notice is required to be given.

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : The hon. Minister has laid a statement on the floor of the House giving details of the irrigation potential created State-wise in major and minor irrigation projects I request to the Honourable Minister that the water be available for the purpose of agriculture, for drinking purposes and for power purposes as indicated in the statement.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Speaker Sir, as we have reflected in our statement, it is position from 1991 to 1995 which includes everything irrigation, power and potable water.

[English]

Panel of Expert Engineers

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*345. SHRI I.D. SWAMI :
SHRI PINAKI MISRA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal to constitute a panel of expert engineers to propose a plan to inter-connect all rivers in the country and utilise the waters judiciously and the avert recurring flood fury in the country,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which such a panel is likely to be constituted;

(d) the time by which the panel is expected to render its recommendations; and

(e) the other measures taken by the National Water Development Agency for inter-linking of rivers to prevent floods and optimise the irrigation potential of the rivers?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A National Commission has been set up by the Ministry of Water Resources vide O.M. dt.13.9.1996 and subsequent modification dt. 25.10.1996 & 22.11.1996.

The composition of the Commission is as follows:-

1. Chairman

Initially Shri G.V.K. Rao was appointed as Chairman vide O.M.NO.2/11/96-BM/645-661 dt.13.9.1996. However, he resigned. Thereafter Shri C.H. Hanumantha Rao was appointed as the Chairman vide O.M. of even no. dt. 22.11.1996. He too has expressed his inability to accept the offer of appointment. Action